



Christine Rizzo Gåsström, M.S. L.Ac. C.H.  
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FTR SB-392

March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Senator Joseph Crisco  
Representative Steve Fontana  
Co-Chairs, Insurance & Real Estate Committee

Connecticut General Assembly  
Room 2800, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106  
Phone: 860-240-0510

RE: SB 392 – AN ACT CONCERNING INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR ACUPUNCTURE  
TREATMENTS PROVIDED BY CHIROPRACTORS AND THE MINIMUM PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY  
INSURANCE CARRIED BY CHIROPRACTORS.

Dear Representative Fontana, Senator Crisco:

I'm urging you to scrap SB 392, and take a close look at the lack of credentials that chiropractors have in the practice of acupuncture.

I'm a licensed Acupuncturist here in the state of Connecticut. I am in my 7<sup>th</sup> year in practice, which I currently maintain in Old Saybrook CT. I am also a board member of the Connecticut Society of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. In order to practice this medicine in the state of CT I am required to have 1350 hours of academic and clinical training from a nationally accredited institution and I had to pass a nationally recognized certification exam that lasted 9 hours. I think those requirements are great because they help maintain a high standard of practitioner here in CT. I have an M.S. in Traditional Chinese Medicine. This degree includes extensive training in Acupuncture and Chinese Herbal Medicine. It represents a total of more than 3400 academic and clinical hours of formal training. My focused practice of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine includes more than 120 hours of continuing education each year. On the other hand...

Currently, in the state of CT, Chiropractors have no minimum standard training in Acupuncture or Chinese medicine theory in order to practice acupuncture. Moreover, Chiropractors have no specified acupuncture exam that determines sufficient training in Acupuncture and/or Oriental medical theory. Finally, a Chiropractic degree does not include specified acupuncture and/or Oriental medicine education.

I ask you to reconsider mandating health coverage for acupuncture by chiropractors. If your intention is to provide the citizens with the most skilled and educated practitioners of acupuncture, I believe you are funneling patients to the wrong practitioners. I urge you to step back and consider this very complex issue with great care and attention. As a board member of the CSAOM, I have been working with the Public Health Committee for the past 2 years to up date the laws regarding the practice of Acupuncture here in the state. Just last year we won title protection for Acupuncturists. I urge you to speak to the members of that committee to find out more about this matter. We are a passionate and committed group of professionals dedicated to the integrity of the medicine we practice and the well being of those who would seek it out.

Thank you for the chance to weigh in on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christine Rizzo Gåsström".

Christine Rizzo Gåsström M.S. L.Ac. C.H.

Cc: Senator Daily  
Representative Spallone  
Representative Ritter